

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 01819 300405Z
ACTION PM-05

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E O 11652 N A
TAGS OCLR
SUBJ: PROPOSED USN SHIP VISIT TO TASMANIA

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CANBERRA INFO CINCPAC POLAD CINCPACFLT COM-
SEVENTHFLT FROM MELBOURNE 23 AUG 77 R 230230Z AUG 77

QTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 1819

FOR CAPTAIN SUTHERLIN FROM CONSUL GENERAL BRAND

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E O 11652 N A
TAGS OCLR
SUBJ: PROPOSED USN SHIP VISITS TO TASMANIA

1. I HAVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS WITH REGARD TO YOUR
REQUEST FOR REACTION ON THE PROPOSED VISITS OF TWO USN SHIPS TO
NORTHERN TASMANIAN PORTS DURING THE PERIOD DEC 27-31, 1977:

A. USS GRAY, FF 1054, 283 MEN W/LAMPS. RATHER THAN
AGAIN SENDING A USN SHIP TO BURNIE FOR THE SECOND TIME
IN A YEAR, I BELIEVE THAT THE USS GRAY SHOULD GO TO
LAUNCESTON WHICH IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT CITY IN
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NORTHERN TASMANIA, AND THAT THE USS AGERHOLM SHOULD GO
TO DEVONPORT. NOT ONLY IS LAUNCESTON A MUCH LARGER
CITY (ABOUT 70,000 PEOPLE) THAN EITHER BURNIE (ABOUT
21,000) OR DEVONPORT (ABOUT 19,000) BUT IT IS THE ADMIN-
ISTRATIVE CAPITAL FOR THE NORTH. ALSO, THE MAYOR OF
LAUNCESTON AT THAT TIME WILL BE ALDERMAN MAX CLEAVER, WHO
WAS A SENIOR OFFICER ON FIELD MARSHALL BLAMEY'S STAFF IN

WW 2 AND WHO SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AT GENERAL MCARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS AS AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE. MAX IS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF THE U.S. AND WILL DO EVERYTHING HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE US NAVY GETS AN OUTSTANDING WELCOME TO LAUNCESTON. I CALLED MAX INFORMALLY TO ASK HIM VERY TENTATIVELY HOW LARGE A SHIP COULD FIT INTO THE VARIOUS WHARVES OF THE PORT OF LAUNCESTON, WHICH INCLUDES THE WHOLE TAMAR ESTURARY. HE HAD CAPTAIN MCLAREN, PORT CAPTAIN OF THE LAUNCESTON HARBOR TRUST, CALL ME BACK WITH THE DETAILS. NEITHER THE GRAY NOR THE AGERHOLM CAN GET UP TO THE WHARVES IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY OF LAUNCESTON, BUT EITHER ONE CAN EASILY BE ACCOMMODATED AT THE WHARVES LOWER DOWN THE RIVER. SINCE THE GRAY IS A CONSIDERABLY LARGER SHIP I WOULD SUGGEST THAT IT GO TO LAUNCESTON AND THAT THE AGERHOLM BE SENT TO DEVONPORT WHERE THE MERSEY RIVER IS VERY NARROW AND THE TURNING BASIN IS QUITE LIMITED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, AND PARTICULARLY AT THAT TIME SINCE IT WILL BE CROWDED WITH YACHTS AT THE END OF THE MELBOURNE-DEVONPORT RACE. ALSO IF THE GRAY HAS A LAMPS OPERATIONS THAT WILL BE VERY HANDY FOR TRANSPORTING VIP'S FROM CITY CENTER TO WHARF AREA DOWN RIVER, WHILE MAX CLEAVER ASSURES ME THAT THE CITY OF LAUNCESTON WILL EASILY BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE FREQUENT BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR LARGER GROUPS UP TO TOWN. CAPTAIN MCLAREN SUGGESTED THAT THE GRAY BE BERTHED AT THE WHARVES AT BEAUTY POINT ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE TAMAR ESTUARY

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RATHER THAN AT THE BELL BAY WHARVES ON THE EAST SIDE. BEAUTY POINT HAS SEVERAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES CLOSE BY AND IS RIGHT NEXT TO THE PORT DALRYMPLE YACHT CLUB; THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE RIVER IS EXTREMELY SCENIC; AND THE BEACHES ARE NEARER AND MUCH BETTER THAN ON THE EAST SIDE. ALSO TRANSPORTATION TO LAUNCESTON ON THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY IS THROUGH THE RESIDENTIAL SUBURBS WHEREAS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER THERE ARE MANY INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS AND ACCESS TO THE CITY CENTER IS MUCH SLOWER.

B. USS AGERHOLM, DD 826, 274 MEN. ALL TASMANIA WILL BE VERY LIVELY DURING THE DEC 27-31 PERIOD BECAUSE THE THREE BIG YACHT RACES OF THE YEAR (SYDNEY-HOBART, MELBOURNE-HOBART AND MELBOURNE-DEVONPORT) WILL BE GOING ON AT THAT TIME. ALL THREE BEGIN ON THE MORNING OF BOXING DAY (DEC 26) AND THOUSANDS OF YACHTERS SUPPLEMENT THE NORMALLY BUSY SUMMER TOURIST SEASON. THEREFORE, THE MEN WILL HAVE LOTS OF FUN ALL OVER TASMANIA. DEVONPORT WILL BE FULL OF YACHTS WHEN THE RACE ENDS AND THERE WILL BE LOTS OF ACTIVITY. NEW YEAR'S EVE IS A REAL BLAST AND IF THE NAVY COULD EXTEND BY ONE DAY I AM SURE THE USN SAILORS WOULD BE VERY WELCOME AT THE

MANY PARTIES ALL OVER THE STATE. I HAVE NOT CALLED
ANYONE IN DEVONPORT, BUT AM
SURE WE CAN LAY ON THE VISIT OF THE AGERHOLM VERY EASILY
ONCE THE DATES ARE FIRM.

2. I KNOW BOTH LAUNCESTON AND DEVONPORT VERY WELL SINCE
I HAVE DRIVEN AND SAILED ALL ALONG THAT COAST AND
MET THE LOCAL LEADERS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL
ORGANIZE EXCELLENT VISITS IF THE NAVY AGREES TO SENDING
THE GRAY TO LAUNCESTON AND THE AGERHOLM TO DEVONPORT.
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